TSITIKA RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

March 2003

Approved by:

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Date: Mar 31/03

TSITIKA RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
Purpose Statement

Ecological reserves are areas selected to preserve representative and special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and phenomena. The key role of ecological reserves is to contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity and the protection of genetic materials. All consumptive resource uses and the use of motorized vehicles are prohibited. Research and educational activities may be carried out but only under permit.

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Tsitika River Ecological Reserve is to protect a typical low-elevation fen/bog complex in the Tsitika drainage. The reserve comprises a flat to gently sloping, wet flood plain that has developed thin peat deposits adjacent to the Tsitika River. A variety of bog and fen communities are surrounded by a fringe of forest communities. Unusual species combinations occur in some of the communities due to watertable changes brought about by past and present beaver activity.

Roosevelt elk have used this wetland area during spring and summer, pronounced trails are in evidence. Black-tailed deer are frequent and beaver, wolf and black bear are occasionally present.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Protection of natural values from adjacent logging	➢ Work with Ministry of Forests and industry to take ecological reserve values into consideration during forest development. ➢ Monitor for impact to the bog/fen system that may result from adjacent logging.
Public awareness of reserve and undertaking of inappropriate activities (hunting and other recreational uses)	➢ Ensure boundary signs are visible. ➢ Increase general public awareness of the ecological reserve program. ➢ Continue to work with volunteer ecological reserve warden.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Tsitika River Ecological Reserve makes a minimal contribution of 0.24% to the representation of the Northern Island Mountains Ecosection (NIM), which is under represented in the protected areas system at 9.1%
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Very minimal contribution (0.09%) to the representation of CWHvm1, which is under represented in the protected areas system at 7%
Special Features	☒	Riparian habitat, rare plant communities
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	*Blue-listed* Roosevelt elk. The Tsitika drainage is a flyway for the *red-listed* marbled murrelet and is foraging habitat for a *red-listed* subspecies of northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*).
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Diverse plant communities, rare species

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☐	Not Applicable
travel corridor	☐	Not Applicable
local recreation	☐	Not Applicable
Special Opportunities	☐	Not Applicable
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values unknown
Special Feature	☐	None known at this time

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of ecological reserves on Vancouver Island
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable
Partnerships	☒	Volunteer ecological reserve warden

Vulnerability	☒	Vulnerable to adjacent logging, access, occasional recreation use, hunting
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	This reserve is one of six identified in the Tsitika River drainage by the Tsitika Planning Team in the 1970s.

Area: 110 hectares

Date of establishment: August 10, 1989